

of babies has evoked a very special response from Dr. Louis A. Nichols (October 28, p. 1153). . . . Of course, had Freud been alive, he would have advised me strongly against going into print in order to refute, no matter how justifiably, almost any kind of erroneous or misleading statements such as are made in regard to psychoanalysis. One is told that he held the view that those who are actively impelled into the misunderstanding of his published work *will only be driven to strengthen their misconceptions* in order to sustain these in the face of unwelcome facts or logical reasoning. If one doubts Freud's wisdom, one has only to see the remarkable transformation of my letter which has taken place in Dr. Nichols's imagination, and thence into the correspondence columns of the *B.M.J.* One part of my letter gave the rationale of my success in enabling a certain, overstimulated, screeching baby to fall, instantaneously, asleep, as soon as I afforded it the opportunity. Briefly, I now find that not only can my reasoning and my described actions be further "invented," but so can the baby in question. For example, I did not say that it "passes into a frightening trance-like state resembling death," but that it merely fell fast asleep. Nor did I "invert" that baby in any respect, whether physical or psychical. As I was (all) there at the time, I wrapped it around and laid and left it horizontal, in its pram, this being a customary position for comfort, including sleep. Nevertheless, it seems that thereby I "performed what is erroneously described as 'animal hypnotism'" and that I "changed(d) the mother figure," as well as committing a "paternal induction with passes and pressure associated with Mesmer." So that is what ordinary, quiet, commonsense procedures can turn out to be. In consequence, these suggest to Dr. Nichols that I "unconsciously recommend(ed) the return to the use of hypnotism." Who else would have thought so?

Dr. ROMAN MOGILNICKI (Moshi, Tanganyika) writes: I have read with interest the letter of Dr. D. B. James about "Shush!" (September 16, p. 770). May I be permitted to remind you that practically all animals in Africa, all antelopes, zebras, rhinos, use as warning signal a "shush." Could this possibly help to provide some light for the explanation of the influence of shushing on children?

Radioactive Fall-out and Milk

Dr. A. FRY (London S.E.25) writes: There has been recently a great scare about the radioactive fall-out which may affect the milk by increasing its iodine-131 and strontium-90 contents. This would be serious for artificially fed children in the first year of their life. The dangers of radioactive fall-out are not only confined to bomb explosions. They may also result from accidents in atomic power stations, atomic submarines or ships, which are gradually increasing in numbers. In a recent accident in the Windscale atomic power station a considerable surrounding area was contaminated with radioactive material. It would be prudent, therefore, if a serious campaign is launched to encourage more breast-feeding so as to minimize any possible danger to young infants.

The Young Pretender

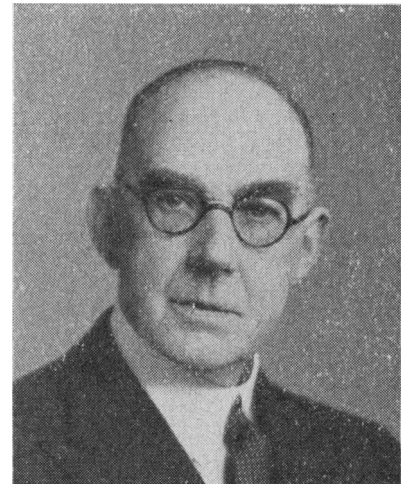
Dr. JAMES WILLOCKS (The Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital) writes: Although milk was certainly not the favourite beverage of the Young Pretender, it is unlikely that he acquired an allergy to cows' milk protein in early infancy, as suggested by Dr. P. J. E. Wilson (November 4, p. 1226). Prince Charles Edward Louis John Casimir Silvester Maria Stuart was born at Rome on December 30, 1720, after a labour lasting nearly two days. He was a healthy, beautiful, and vigorous child. It is unlikely that he was either breast-fed by his mother or artificially fed on cows' milk. Most probably he was reared by the practice of wet nursing, then almost universal among the upper classes throughout Europe.

Obituary

Sir WILLIAM FLETCHER SHAW, M.D., LL.D.
F.R.C.P., F.R.C.O.G., M.M.S.A., F.A.C.S

Sir William Fletcher Shaw, emeritus professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Manchester, died after a short illness on November 14, aged 83. One of the leading obstetricians and gynaecologists of his generation, he was a prime mover in the foundation of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

William Fletcher Shaw was born in Manchester on April 13, 1878. Educated at Manchester Grammar School and Owens College, he graduated M.B., Ch.B. from the Victoria University of Manchester in 1903. He had the unique experience of travelling down to the university in a horse-drawn tram to hear the result of his final examination and the following day made the same journey to receive his degree in one propelled by electricity. After holding resident posts at the Manchester



[Walter Stoneman]

Royal Infirmary he became resident surgical officer at St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Manchester, where he played an important part in establishing the pathological laboratory. He proceeded M.D. (with gold medal) in 1906: his thesis was on chronic metritis, and he was thus early set on the road to fame in obstetrics and gynaecology. He was elected to the honorary staff of St. Mary's Hospital in 1912 and later became honorary gynaecologist to the Manchester Royal Infirmary and professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in the University. He published many papers, particularly on the subject of uterine prolapse, and was a member of many professional societies at home and in the Dominions.

Sir William Fletcher Shaw will live in the history of his specialty for his work in connexion with the foundation of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. It was he who first conceived the idea and in 1924 discussed it with Blair-Bell. It was further discussed unofficially at a meeting of the Gynaecological Visiting Society, when it was decided to set up a committee, with Shaw as secretary, to enlist the support of as many obstetricians and gynaecologists as possible. The hard work and tact that he brought to bear on this resulted in the foundation of the College in 1929, with Shaw as its first honorary secretary and one of its Foundation Fellows. Nine years later he was elected to the Presidency of the College, and he held this office until 1943, when he received the honour of Knighthood. He described the foundation of the College in his Lloyd Roberts lecture (1950) and in his book *Twenty-five Years: The Story of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 1929-1954*. He was admitted to the Honorary Fellowship of the College at a special ceremony in 1948.

His work was widely recognized. He became an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1936 and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1939. In 1947

the Society of Apothecaries conferred on him its Mastership of Midwifery, *honoris causa*, and in the following year Queen's University, Belfast, conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D. He retired from his chair in 1943 and with the advent of the National Health Service was appointed consultant adviser in gynaecology to the North-West Region. During his long career he held numerous important appointments and offices. He was a past-president of the North of England Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society and of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Royal Society of Medicine. At one time a member of the Council of the B.M.A., he served on the Medical Planning Commission and was president of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Annual Meeting in 1929. A former chairman of the Convocation of Manchester University, he was an examiner in his specialty for the Universities of Liverpool, Leeds, Wales, Edinburgh, and Cambridge.

Sir William Fletcher Shaw was always greatly respected and liked. In his youth he was president of the Students' Union at Manchester and of their debating society. At that time he wore a fine black moustache of what would nowadays be called the handlebar variety, and it was not surprising that he was affectionately known as "Hairy Bill." As he matured he acquired a courtly and gracious manner and was a gentleman in the very best sense of the word. There were times when he had devastating lapses of memory for faces, but this was part of his distinctive character. It was a measure of his colleagues' respect for him that he was invited to be president of the Manchester Medical Society for a second period in 1951-2, in the year after the Society's reorganization. He was an excellent host and had a fund of stories, notably about Lloyd Roberts.

Sir William Fletcher Shaw was twice married. His first wife died in 1934 and his second wife in 1947. By his first marriage he had three sons. His eldest son, Mr. D. A. Fletcher Shaw, entered the same specialty as his father and is a consultant in Stockport. His second son, William, was killed in Normandy in 1944 and is commemorated at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists by the William Meredith Fletcher Shaw lecture.

We are indebted to Sir ANDREW CLAYE for the following appreciation: The passing of William Fletcher Shaw closes an era for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, an era in which he was always playing his part, whether as planner, executive, historian, or elder statesman. It was in his mind that the idea of a College for those who practise our specialty first took shape. It was passed on in 1924 to Blair-Bell and later to other members of the Gynaecological Visiting Society, and after many difficulties had been met and overcome the College was founded in September, 1929, with Blair-Bell as the first President and Fletcher Shaw as the first Honorary Secretary. No one was more concerned in the preliminary work than the Secretary. Blair-Bell was a man about whom it was impossible to feel indifferent; he was either loved or hated. It was a great tribute to Fletcher Shaw's discretion that he was able to work with Blair-Bell for eight years with never a sharp word and, as he himself wrote, "in an ideal partnership." He must have spent a great deal of time, energy, and tact in conciliating the opposition, which was always there and often vocal.

In 1938 Fletcher Shaw's untiring efforts for the College were rewarded by his being unanimously elected President. The long-term plans of the College were largely held up because of the urgent necessity for preparing for the possibility of war. With its President it had some say in the organization of the obstetric and gynaecological services in the Army, Navy, and Emergency Medical Service. Fletcher Shaw was knighted in 1942, the first President to receive this honour during his Presidency. By a special resolution of Council his term of office was prolonged to five years. After this he proved a powerful ambassador for the College in his visits to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa, where he made many friends. Not the least of his achievements was the writing, at short

notice, of a history of the College for its silver jubilee in 1954. In 1958 the Council Club at its dinner celebrated his 80th birthday. On that occasion I quoted his statement that the College "was the dream of a young man who had had several years of intensive clinical training, but who recognized the value of higher examinations and desired those examinations to be devised so that the preparation for them would improve the candidate's knowledge of the subject he had chosen for his life's work." I repeat now what I said then: "It has been given to Sir William, as it is given to few of us, not merely to have the dream, but to see it come true, as the result of no single person's efforts greater than his own."

He never lost his keen interest in College affairs. He had doubt at first about the wisdom of moving to Regent's Park, but by the time of the opening ceremony in July, 1960, he was converted. The College has shown its appreciation for the magnificent work of its first President, Blair-Bell, and its first Honorary Secretary, Fletcher Shaw, by putting up a plaque to them in the entrance hall of the new building.

A. C. WHITE KNOX, C.B.E., M.C., M.B., Ch.B.

Major A. C. White Knox, who practised in South-east London for many years, and was until recently Surgeon-in-Chief of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Principal Medical Officer of the St. John Ambulance Association, died at King's College Hospital on November 13, aged 72.

Alexander Campbell White Knox was born at Auchnagatt, Aberdeenshire, on January 2, 1889, and educated at Robert Gordon's College and Aberdeen University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1913. After post-graduate study in Edinburgh, on the Continent, and in the United States he went into general practice first in Burnley, Lancashire, and then in Denmark Hill, London. During the first world war he served in the R.A.M.C. and was awarded the Military Cross and bar.



[Photo Studios, London W.]

For more than fifty years he devoted much of his time to the first-aid movement. Even before he qualified as a doctor he worked for the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association in Aberdeen, and after coming to London he became closely concerned with the work of the St. John Ambulance Association, of which he was Principal Medical Officer. In 1951 he was appointed Surgeon-in-Chief of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He was responsible, with others, for the publication of many books on first aid, including the joint textbook of the Order of St. John, the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, and the British Red Cross Society. He also found time to serve as chief medical officer of the City of London Special Constabulary. At the beginning of the second world war Major White Knox instructed King George VI and the present Queen Mother in first aid at Buckingham Palace. A Knight of the Order of St. John, he was appointed O.B.E. in 1947 and promoted C.B.E. this year. In 1956, in celebration of his 50 years of service with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Major White Knox was presented with his portrait painted by Miss Anna Zinkeisen (part of which is reproduced here).